

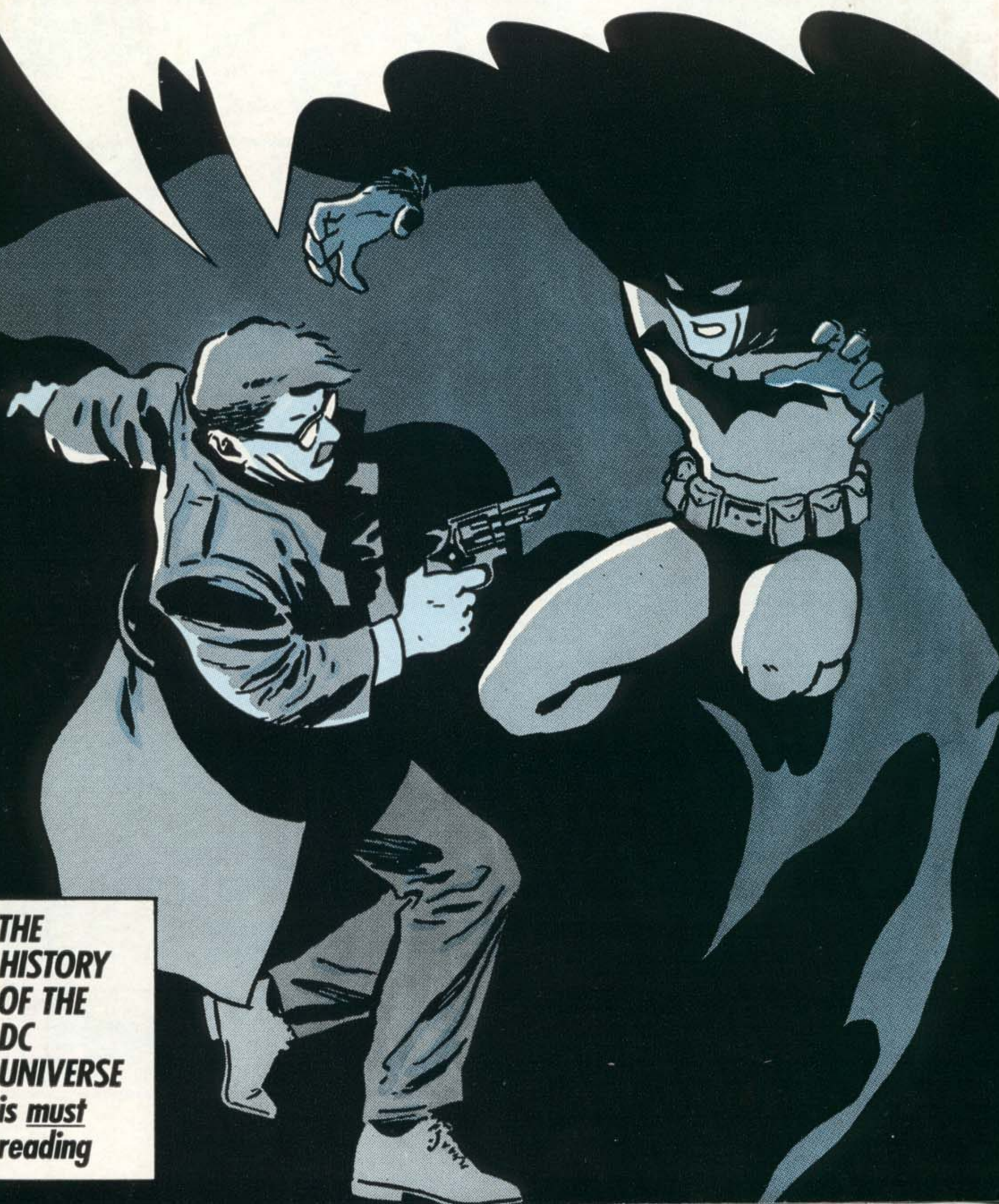


BY
FRANK MILLER
AND DAVID
MAZZUCHELLI

YEAR ONE PART 4

407
75¢
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U.K. 40p
MAY 87

BATMAN[®]



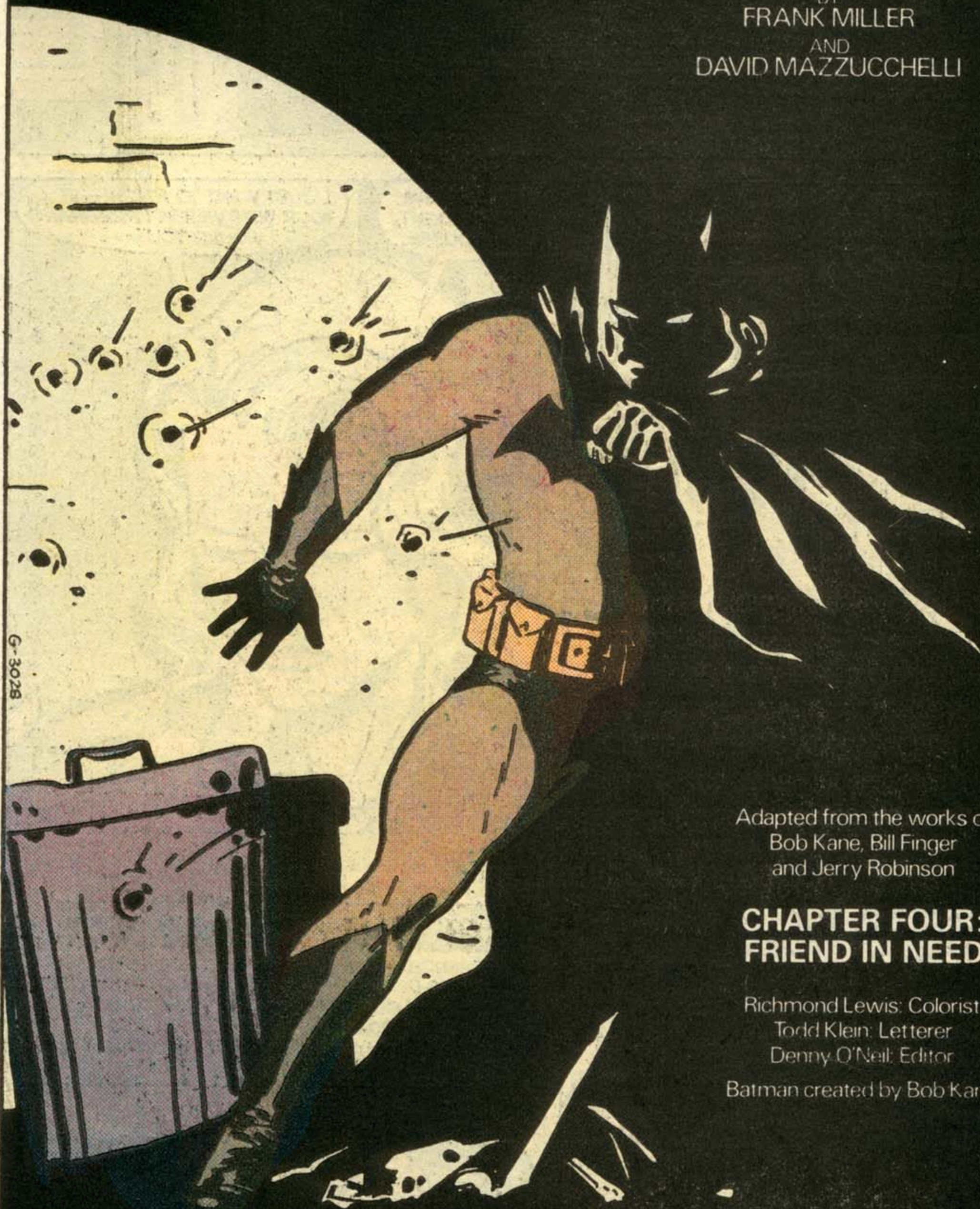
THE
HISTORY
OF THE
DC
UNIVERSE
is *must*
reading

He's out to clean
up a city that
likes being dirty.

He can't do it alone.

BATMAN YEAR ONE

BY
FRANK MILLER
AND
DAVID MAZZUCHELLI



Adapted from the works of
Bob Kane, Bill Finger
and Jerry Robinson

CHAPTER FOUR: FRIEND IN NEED

Richmond Lewis: Colorist
Todd Klein: Letterer
Denny O'Neil: Editor

Batman created by Bob Kane



HERO COP LIEUTENANT **JAMES GORDON** TODAY APPREHENDED NOTORIOUS NARCOTICS DEALER **JEFFERSON SKEEVERS**. IT LOOKS LIKE **GORDON'S** OUT TO SET A **RECORD**. RIGHT, TOM?

IT SURE DOES, TRISH. HE'S CAUGHT A **BIG FISH** THIS TIME. IF **SKEEVERS** IS **CONVICTED**, THIS'LL BE THE **FOURTH** TIME HE GOES TO PRISON. BET THEY THROW AWAY THE **KEY**.



September 5

Her arms are strong.
Her whole body's
strong.

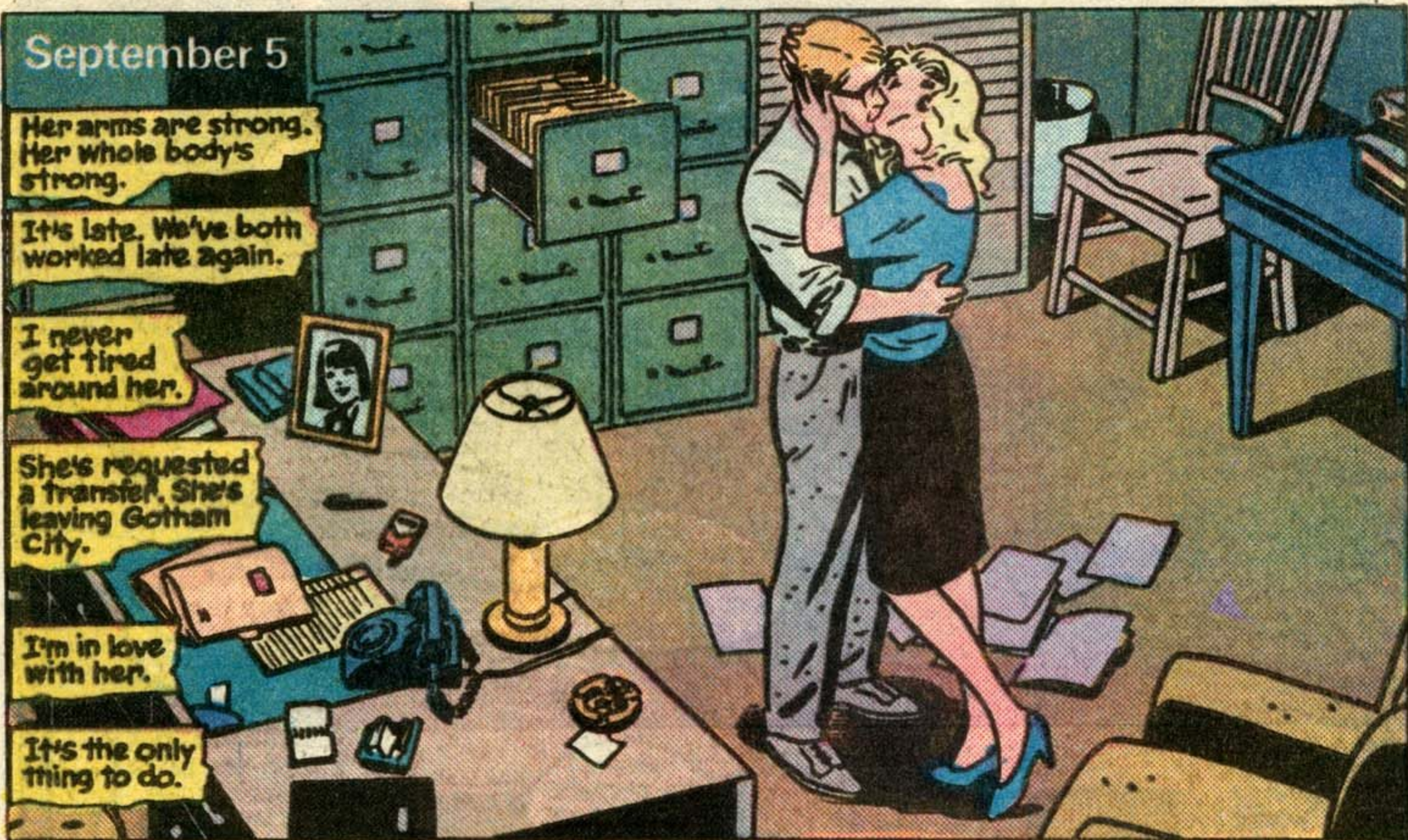
It's late. We've both
worked late again.

I never
get tired
around her.

She's requested
a transfer. She's
leaving Gotham
City.

I'm in love
with her.

It's the only
thing to do.



JUDGE RAFFERTY SET
BAIL FOR JEFFERSON
SKEEVERS. SURPRISING-
LY, ASSISTANT DISTRICT
ATTORNEY HARVEY
DENT DID NOT ARGUE
WITH THIS DECISION...



I KNOW YOU AREN'T ON THE TAKE--
AND I DON'T THINK YOU'RE CRAZY--

--SO TELL ME WHY
YOU LET THEM LET SKEEVERS
OUT ON THE STREET,
DENT--

I UNDERSTAND
HOW YOU FEEL,
LIEUTENANT.

WOULD YOU
LIKE TO BORROW
MY UMBRELLA?



NO. NO.
NONE OF THAT.
YOU STAY CLEAN
UNTIL WE'VE
GOTTEN YOU
OFF.

DON'T SWEAT
IT, BABE. JUST A
COUPLE OF
LINES.



DENT AND
GORDON ARE NOT
FOR YOU, SKEEVERS.
THEY'D LOVE TO
CATCH YOU WITH
YOUR PANTS
DOWN.

CATCH ME?
THEY CAUGHT
ME, BABE-- AND
THEY LET ME GO.
AND YOU GOT ME
A COURT ORDER
TYING GORDON'S
HANDS...





...I MEAN, I'D BE SWEATING, BABE-- IF IT WASN'T FOR OUR COP.

THEY NAIL ME AND I TALK ABOUT FLASS--

--AND MAYBE FLASS TALKS ABOUT COMMISSIONER LOEB...

YOU SAY ONE WORD ABOUT FLASS AND THEY'LL KILL BOTH OF US, SKEEVERS.

NOW TAKE THAT THING OUT OF YOUR NOSE AND LISTEN TO ME.



JUST A COUPLE OF LINES...

WHERE DO I START. BAD ENOUGH THAT YOU'RE BLACK.

I WANT YOU IN A BLUE SUIT AT THE INQUEST. WITH A TIE. MAKE IT BLACK. SAME FOR THE SHOES. NONE OF THAT PIMP STUFF.

SHIT

AND WHEN YOU SMILE AT THE JURY, MAKE IT NICE. PARTICULARLY THE WOMEN.



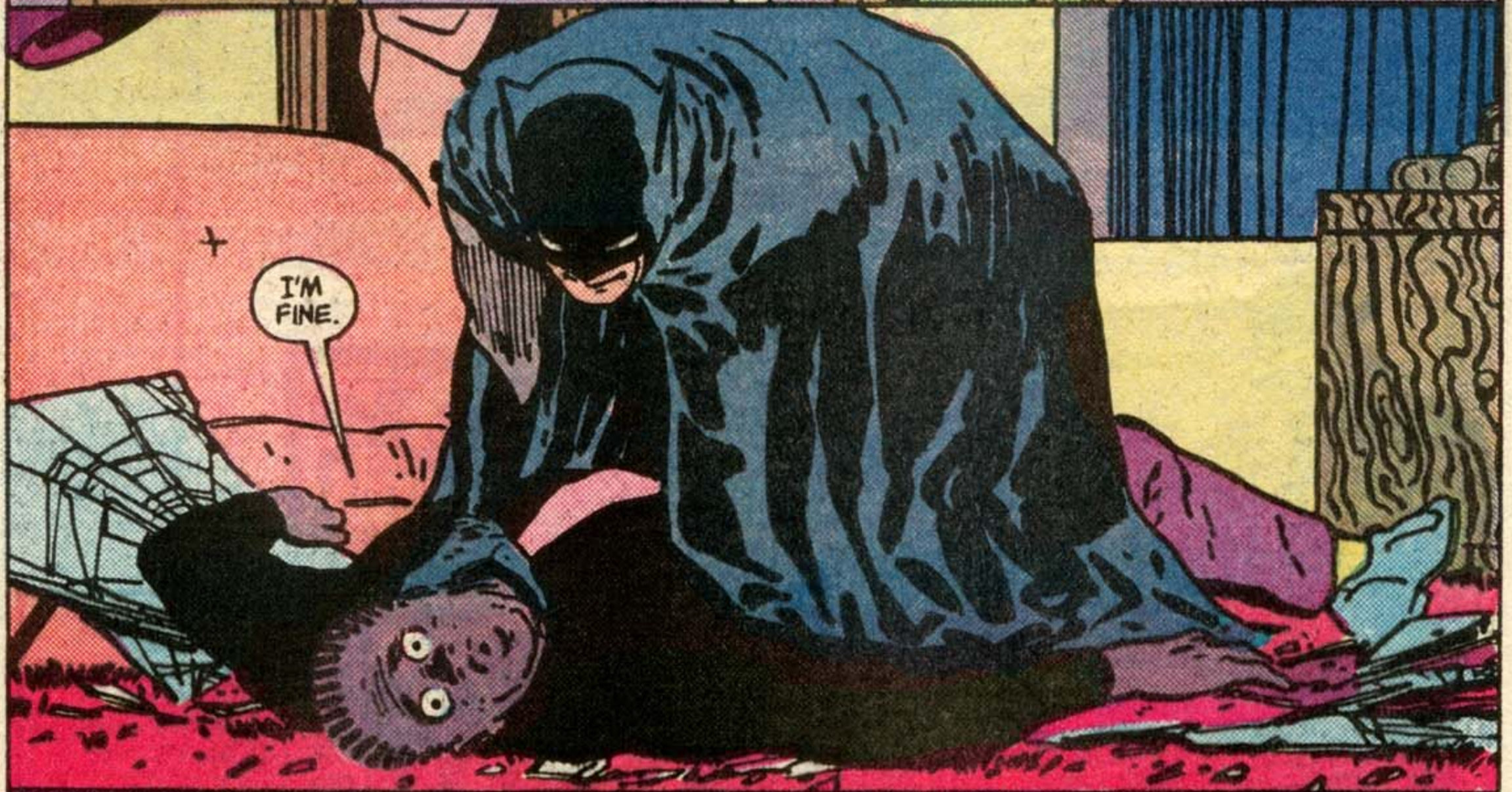
I SMILED AT THEM OKAY.

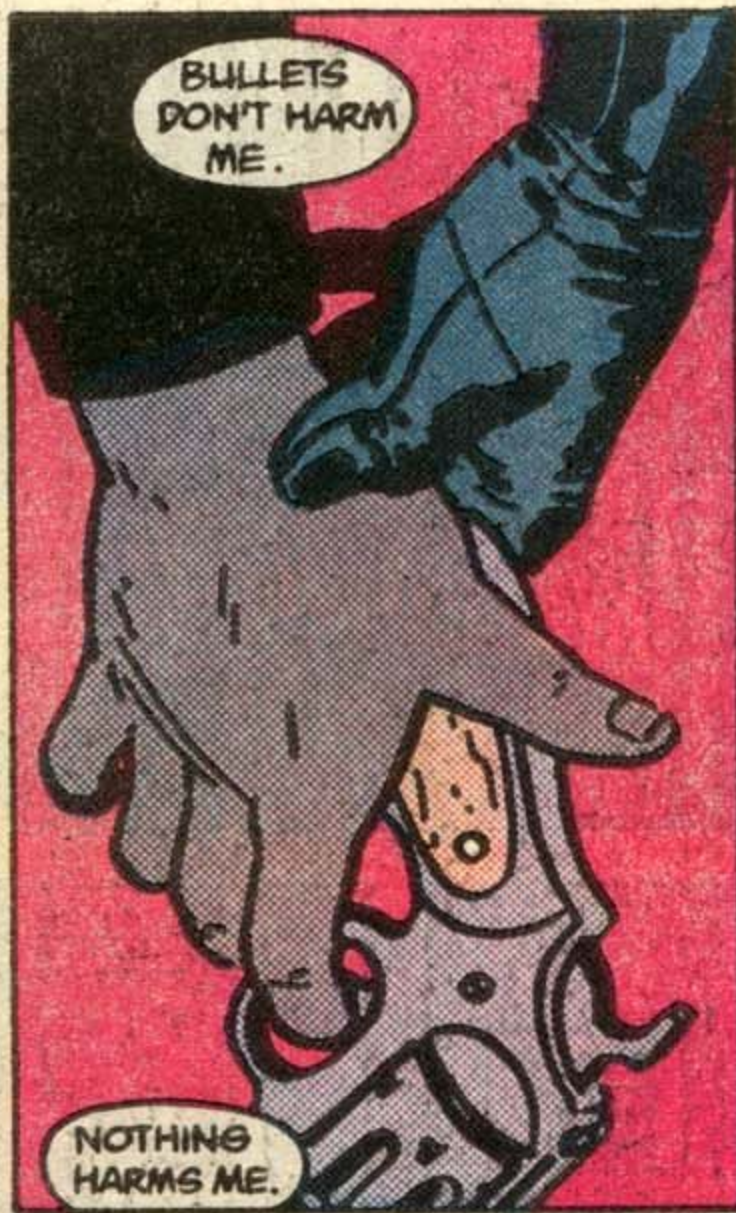
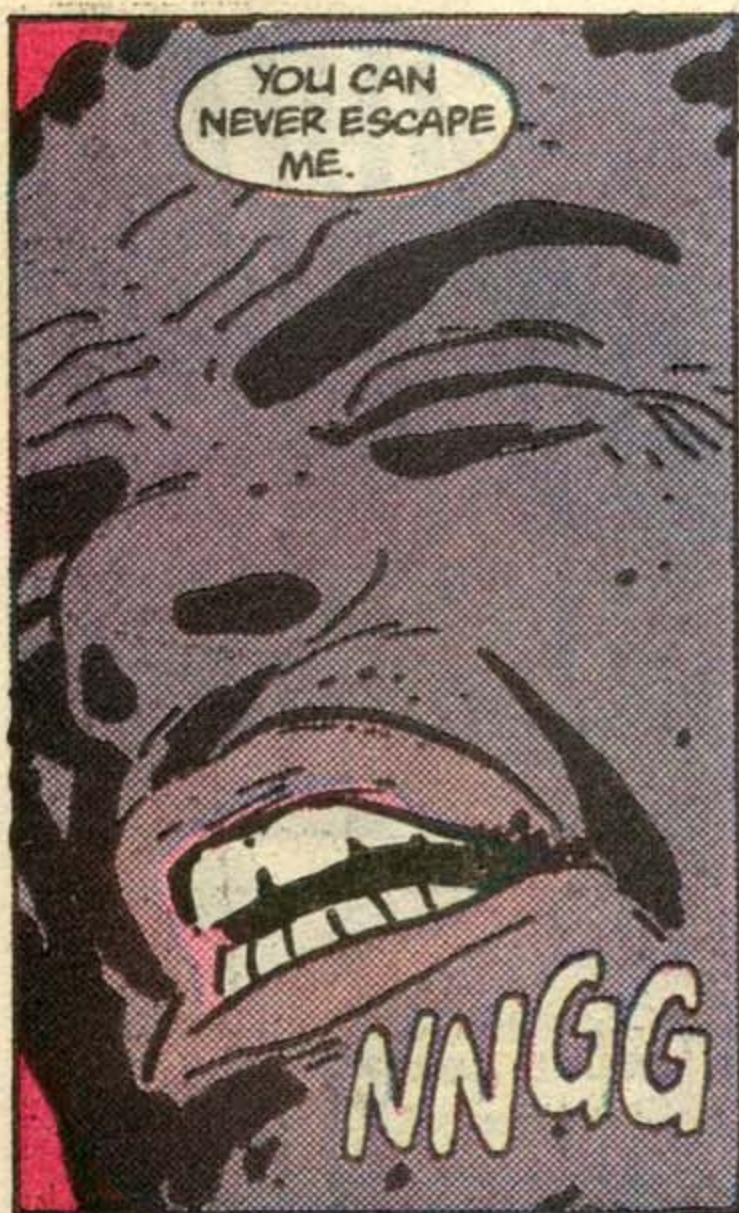


JUST REMEMBER THEY'VE STILL GOT THEIR CLOTHES ON.



KLIK





September 12



September 13

DETECTIVE FLASS IS
A FRIEND OF MINE, GORDON.
YOU MIGHT HAVE AT LEAST
INFORMED ME OF YOUR PLANS
BEFORE HANDING HIS HEAD
TO INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

IT WAS A SLIP, SIR.
EVERYBODY'S WORKING
SUCH LONG HOURS.

GILLIAN B. I.
COMMISSIONER
OF POLICE

FRIENDSHIP, GORDON. LOYALTY. THESE
WORDS STILL COUNT FOR SOMETHING
IN GOTHAM CITY.

WE TOOK YOU IN. YES
WE DID. BLEMISHES AND ALL.
AND YOU DO HAVE YOUR
BLEMISHES. AND YOU GO
AND --

I'VE DONE
EXACTLY WHAT I
PROMISED, COMMIS-
SIONER. YOU GET
MY BEST WORK.

YOU GET GOOD PRESS, I'LL GIVE
YOU THAT.

THEY LIKE YOU, DON'T
THEY, AGEE AND HIS PACK
AT THE GAZETTE.

BUT
THEY DON'T
KNOW YOU.
NO THEY
DON'T.

NOT THE WAY WE
KNOW YOU.

TERRIBLE IF
THEY--OR YOUR WIFE--
LEARNED OF THE SPECIAL
NATURE OF YOUR
RELATIONSHIP--

-- WITH
SERGEANT
ESSEN.

WALLS HAVE
EARS, JIMMY.

September 25

COMMISSIONER LOEB ASSURES GOTHAM THAT THE MANHUNT FOR THE BATMAN CONTINUES, WITH HERO COP JAMES GORDON ON THE CASE...

The butler makes us feel as welcome as a virus. He leads us through a few dozen rooms the size of small states to Wayne's study.

Wayne's been out of the country. Wayne's had the flu. This morning I was told he had a hangover, but he'd see me.

Better than having Barbara stay at home and worry about being so overdue...



POLICE LIEUTENANT AND MRS. GORDON, SIR.

MRS. GORDON. I'M CHARMED.

ALFRED-- BE A JOY AND GET SOME GLASSES FOR OUR GUESTS.



AND ANOTHER BOTTLE. THIS ONE'S EVAPORATED.

LITTLE EARLY IN THE DAY FOR US, THANKS.

MR. WAYNE--I DON'T WANT TO WASTE YOUR TIME...



MY TIME IS WORTHLESS, LIEUTENANT. JUST ASK ALFRED.

HMF.



I'VE BEEN FOLLOWING YOUR EXPLOITS, LIEUTENANT, AND I MUST SAY THAT I'M IMPRESSED. YOU'RE GETTING AS MUCH PRESS AS BATMAN.

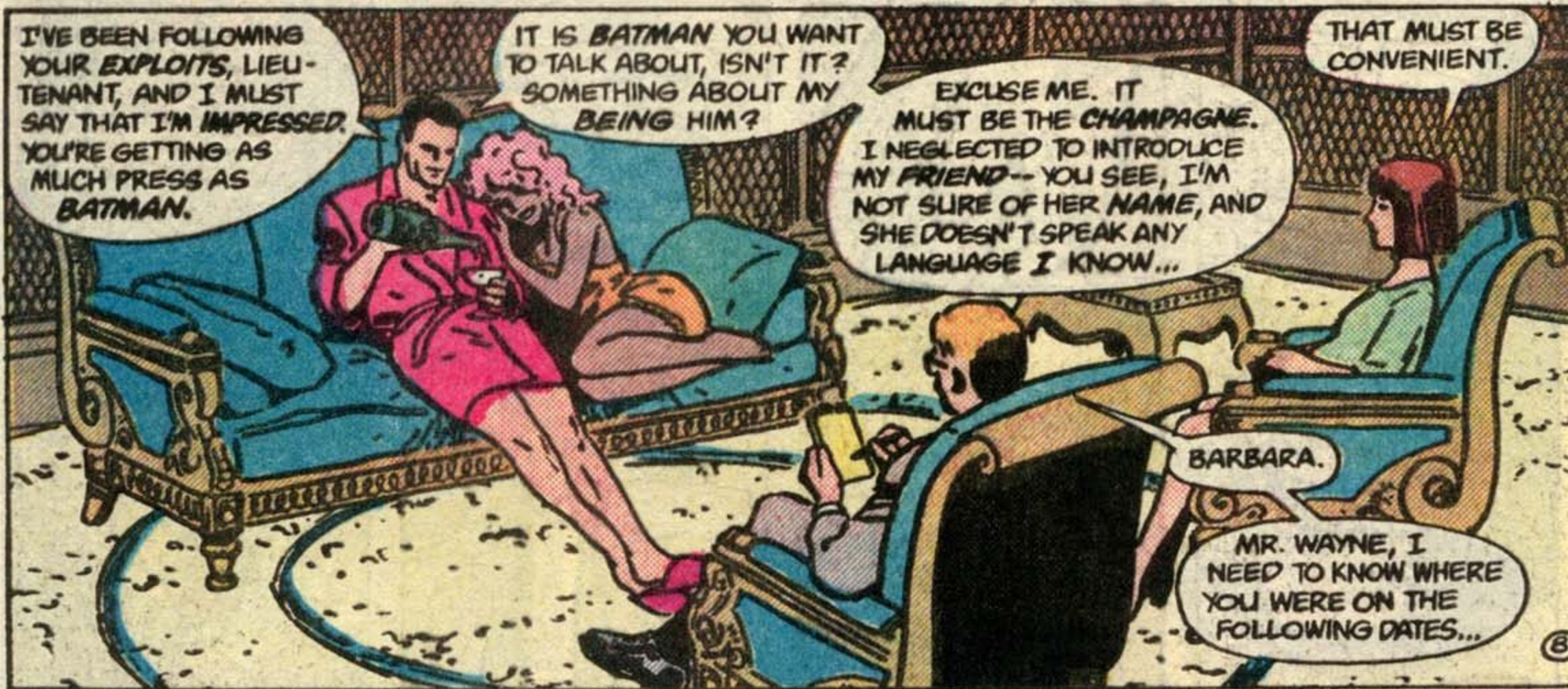
IT IS BATMAN YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT, ISN'T IT? SOMETHING ABOUT MY BEING HIM?

EXCUSE ME. IT MUST BE THE CHAMPAGNE. I NEGLECTED TO INTRODUCE MY FRIEND-- YOU SEE, I'M NOT SURE OF HER NAME, AND SHE DOESN'T SPEAK ANY LANGUAGE I KNOW...

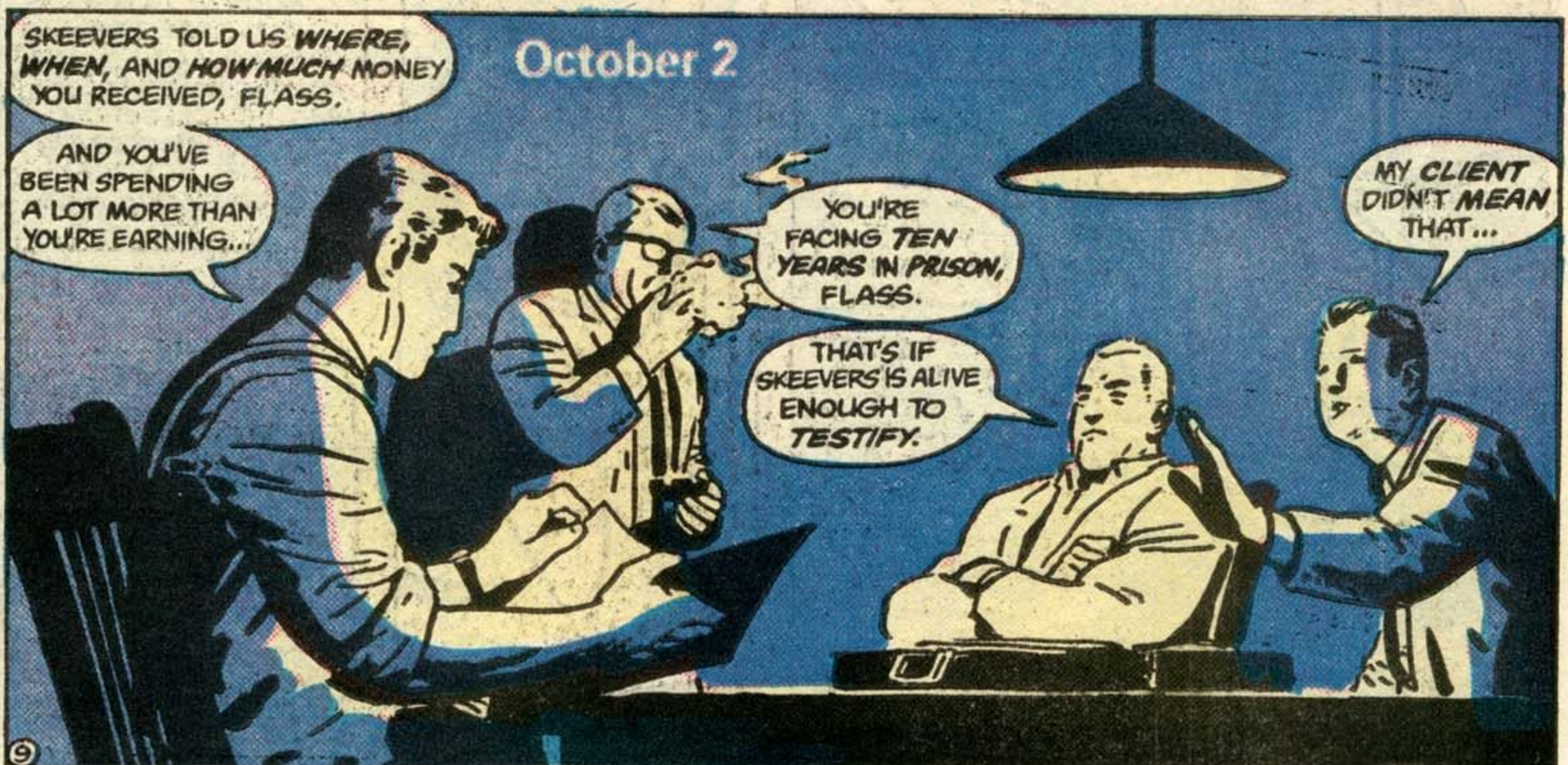
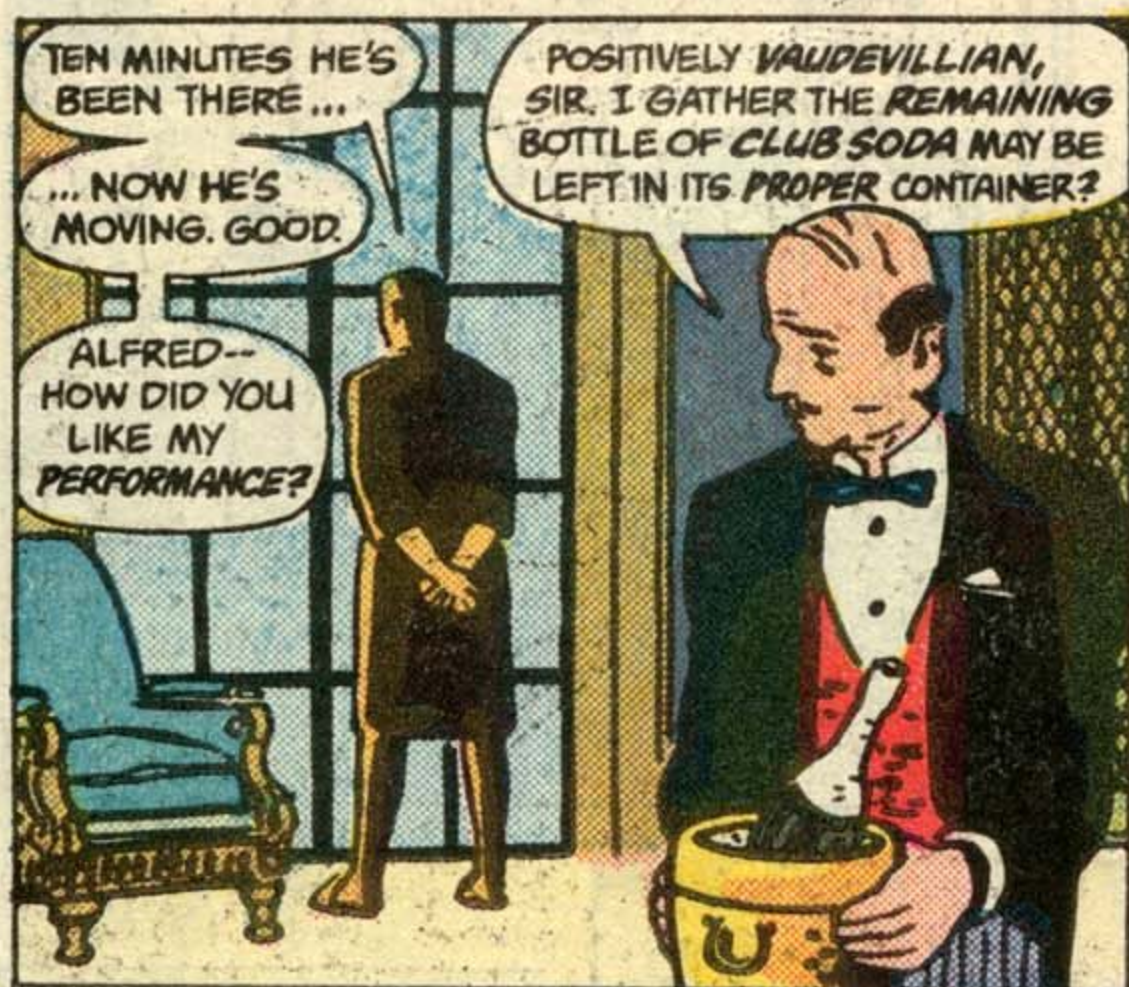
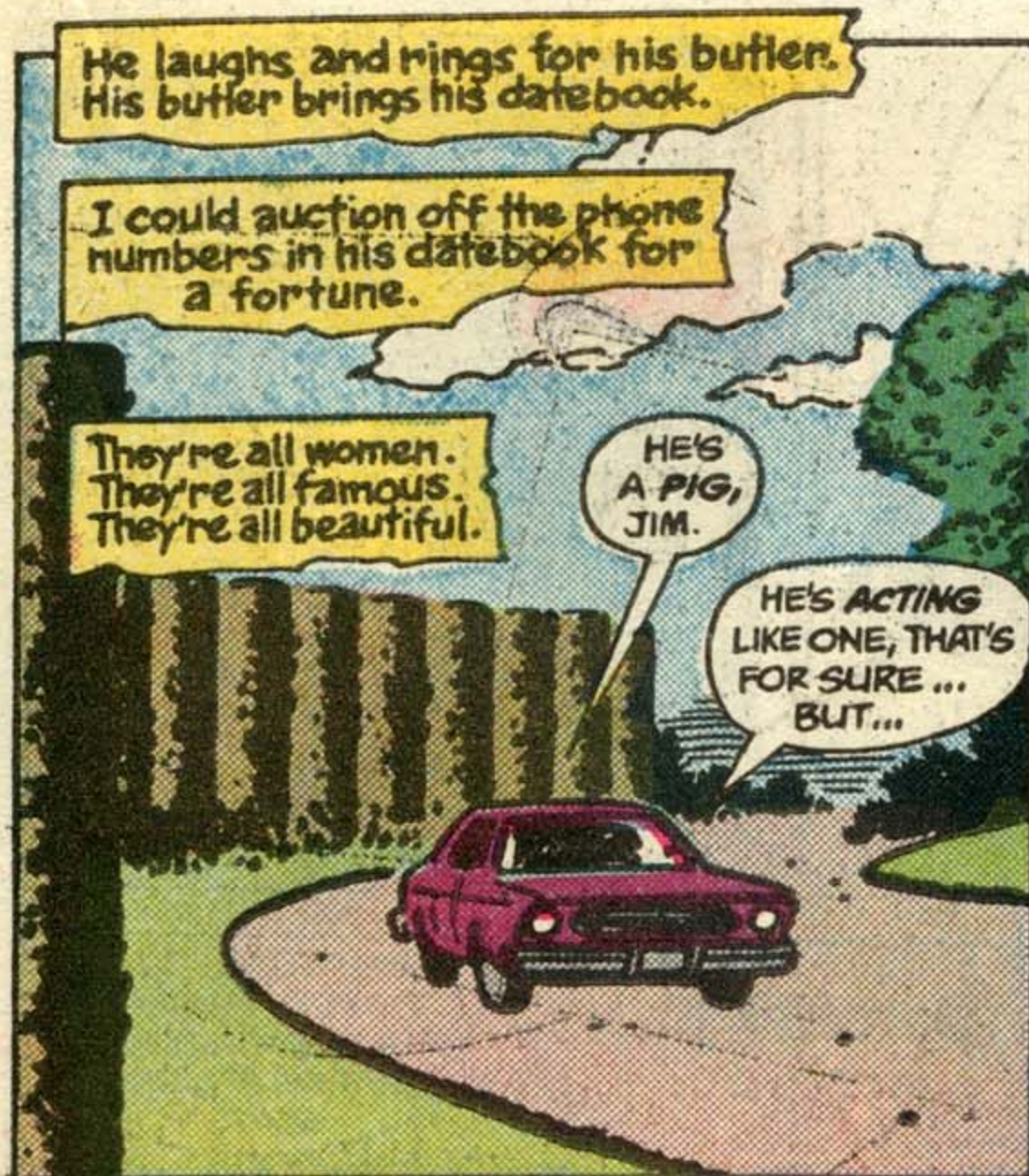
THAT MUST BE CONVENIENT.

BARBARA.

MR. WAYNE, I NEED TO KNOW WHERE YOU WERE ON THE FOLLOWING DATES...



CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.



October 5

YES, SIR.
I KNOW ABOUT
SGT. ESSEN. PLEASE
DON'T BOTHER ME
AGAIN.



October 7

Somebody slips
rat poison into
Skeevers' food.

Merkel gets
his stomach
pumped in
time.



October 10

SKEEVERS IS STILL GOING
TO TESTIFY AGAINST
FLASS. DOESN'T CARE
THAT HIS ATTORNEY
QUIT.

WHATEVER HE'S
SCARED OF, IT'S--
WHAT'S SO FUNNY,
DENT?



October 12

LIEUTENANT
GORDON?



IT'S A BOY. YOUR
WIFE IS FINE.



...FOURTH IN A
DARING SERIES OF
CAT BURGLARIES.
COMMISSIONER LOEB'S
PRIVATE COLLECTION
OF POP MEMORABILIA
IS VALUED AT FORTY
THOUSAND DOLLARS...



November 2

FORTY THOUSAND. SURE. SO WHERE AM I SUPPOSED TO SELL IT?

THOUGHT HE'D HAVE JEWELS--OR PAINTINGS--

--NOT NOW, OTTO...

THIS ONE DOESN'T EVEN WORK.

...LOEB WAS QUICK TO CHARGE THE BATMAN WITH THE CRIME...

MROWWRR

RIPP

BATMAN. THEY'RE GIVING THE CREDIT TO BATMAN. ACES.

SELINA-- YOU DON'T WANT THEM TO KNOW IT WAS YOU...



...LEAVING GOTHAM TO WONDER -- IS THE BATMAN A VIGILANTE -- A THIEF -- A ROBIN HOOD? --

-- IN OTHER NEWS, DETECTIVE ARNOLD FLASS FACES INDICTMENT TO-MORROW, ON THOSE DRUG CHARGES...

I HEAR THE ROMAN'S GOT A FORTUNE IN OLD STUFF. MAYBE I'LL GIVE HIM A SCRATCH OR TWO BEFORE I STEAL IT. WON'T THINK IT'S BATMAN IF I GIVE HIM A SCRATCH.

WHERE'D I PUT THAT DAMN COSTUME...

=KIIE= AND I WANT TO BE A FRIEND TO YOU...

I FIXED IT, SELINA--

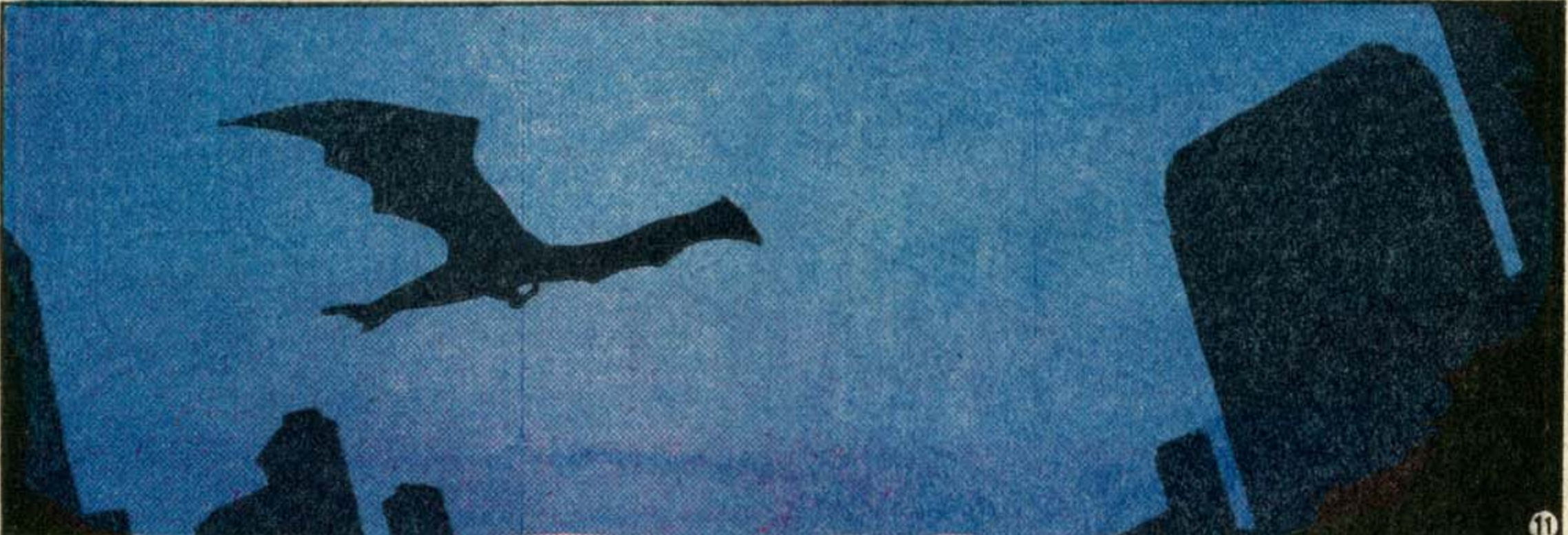
...COME ALONG NOW AND JOIN THE PARTY...

SELINA-- I FIXED IT--



SCRATCH HIM. ON THE FACE. JUST ONCE. HE COULD USE IT.

...INDUSTRY EXPERTS WERE STUNNED BY THE DEMONSTRATION OF UNHEARD-OF POSSIBILITIES FOR LIGHTWEIGHT, DURABLE PLASTICS...





JOHNNY. LITTLE
JOHNNY. YOU'RE A
MAN NOW. A STRONG
MAN.

AND HOW IS
MY *SISTER*? MY
BEAUTIFUL, FAITHFUL
SISTER.

MOTHER IS
WELL, SIR. SHE
SENDS HER DEEPEST
DEVOTION. SHE
PRAYS FOR YOUR
CONTINUED
SUCCESS.

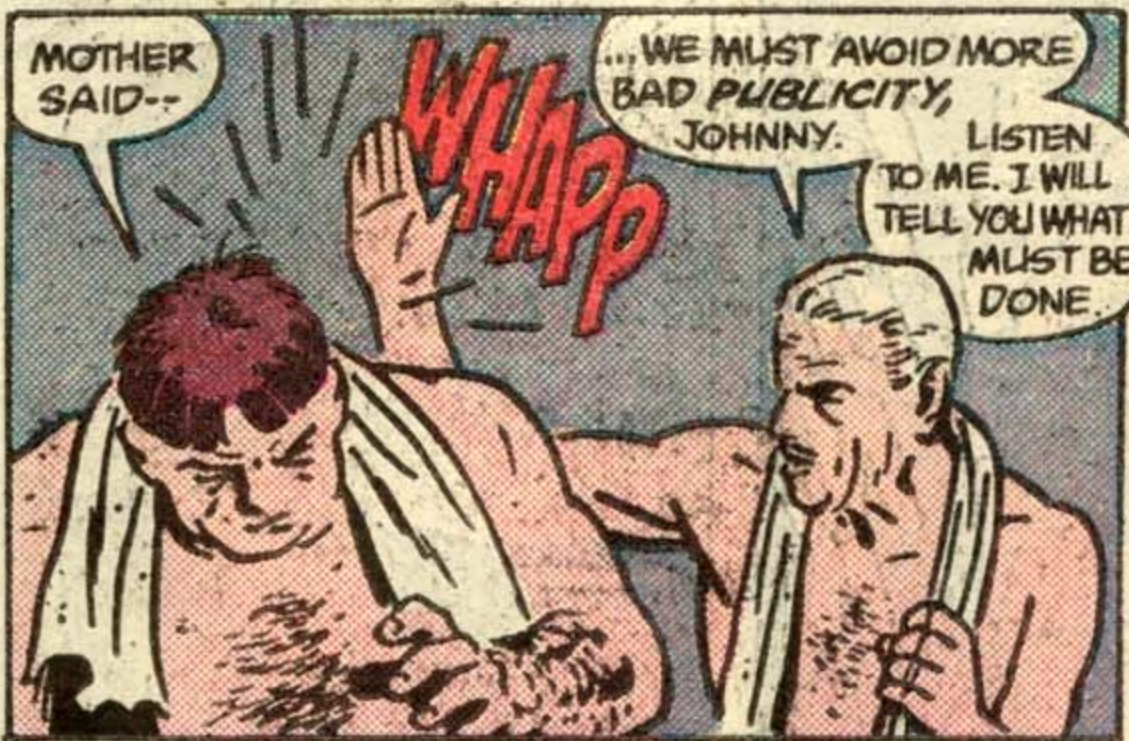
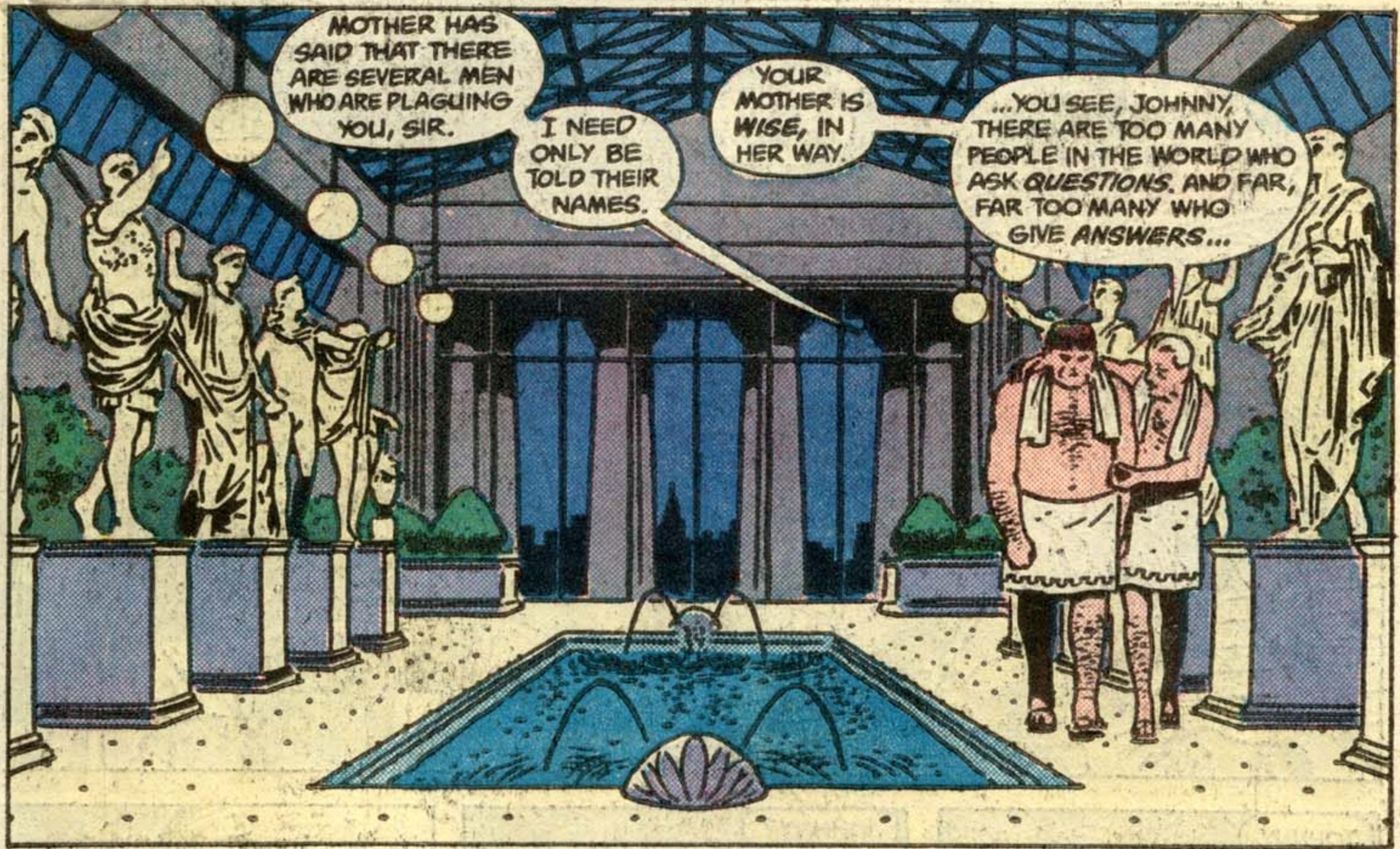
I FEAR I
NEED HER PRAYERS,
JOHNNY. I NEED
HER *SON*.

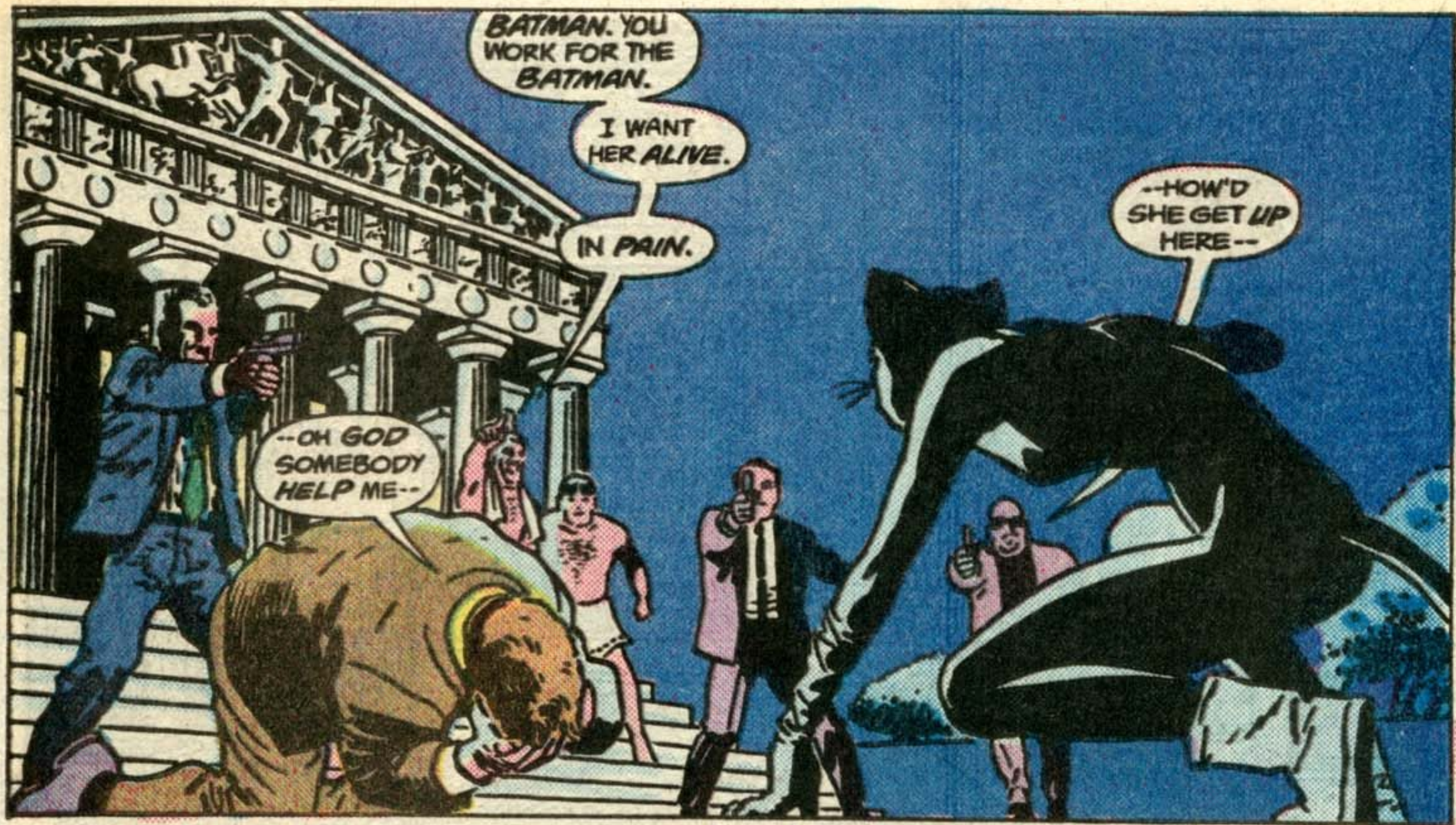
AND YOU HAVE
SHOWN THAT YOU
ARE BRAVE AS
HORATIUS,
JOHNNY.

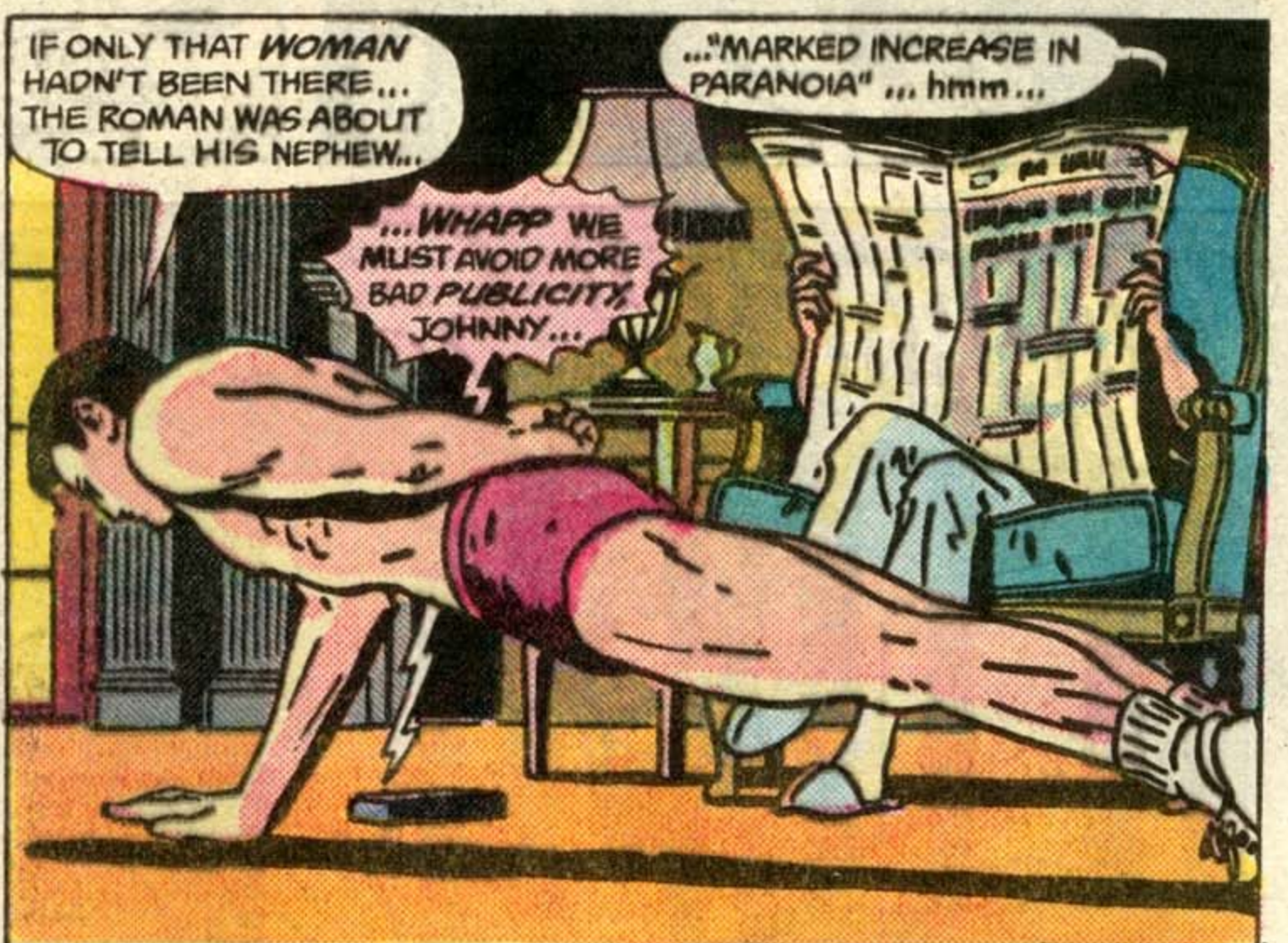
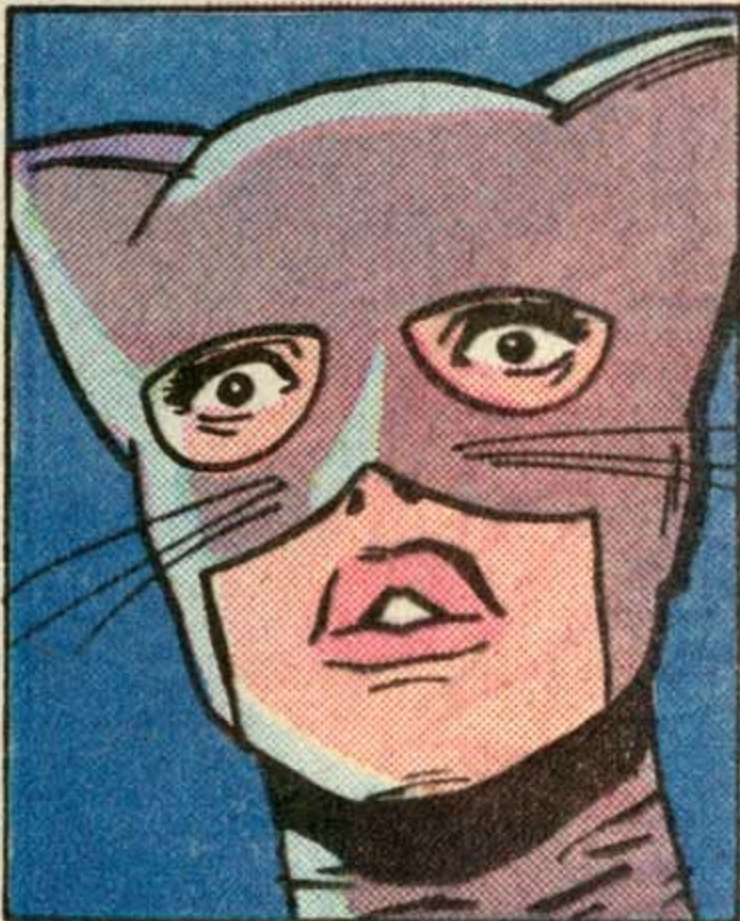
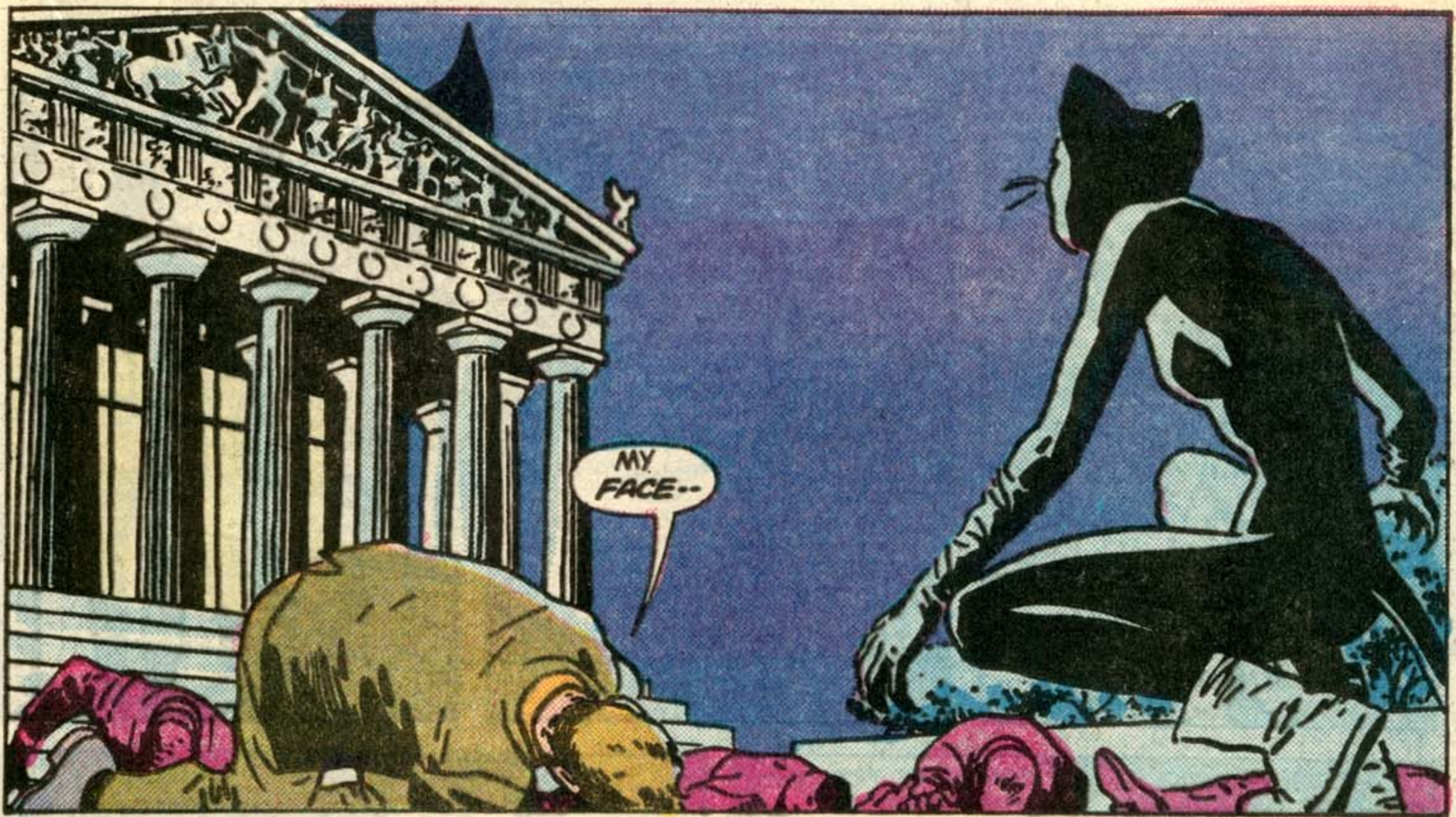
HAVE I TOLD
YOU OF *HORATIUS*?
ONE MAN ON A NARROW
BRIDGE--HOLDING THE
LINE AGAINST HUNDREDS
--UNTIL--

IT HAS
THRILLED ME
EVERY TIME,
SIR.

I AM,
OF COURSE,
YOURS.







I SHOULD'VE CRIPPLED THE ROMAN'S NEPHEW. WOULD'VE BOUGHT US TIME.

NO... HE'D HAVE JUST GOTTEN SOMEBODY ELSE. AT LEAST I KNOW WHO HE'S USING.

Times
**BATMAN ROBS ROMAN
SLASHES FACE**

"TENDENCY TOWARD ABERRANT, EVEN VIOLENT BEHAVIOR..."

WHRR... AVOID MORE BAD PUBLI-CITY... KLIK

HE DOESN'T WANT BAD PUBLICITY. IT FOLLOWS THAT HE WON'T MURDER ANYONE...

...THAT LEAVES BLACKMAIL, OR...

OFF AGAIN, SIR?

SHALL I FETCH YOUR TIGHTS?

NEVER DURING THE DAY, ALFRED.

...LAST NIGHT'S INCIDENT CONNECTS THE BATMAN WITH THE RECENT CAT BURGLARIES. A WOMAN WITH CLAWS--PRESUMABLY BATMAN'S ASSISTANT--IS SAID TO HAVE...

ASSISTANT. NOW I'M HIS ASSISTANT.

I'LL HAVE TO DO SOMETHING REALLY NASTY, NEXT TIME...

CAT FOOL

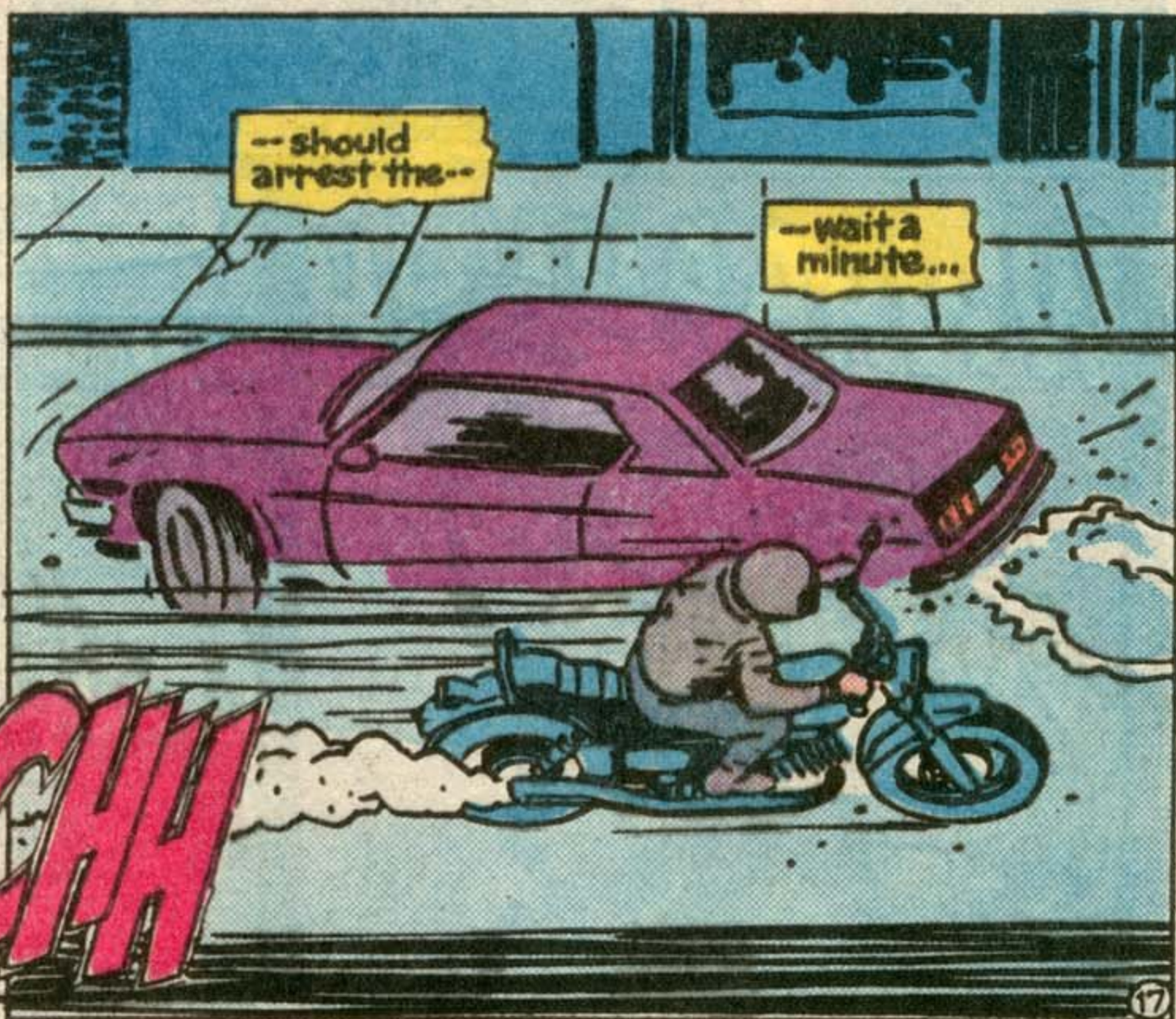
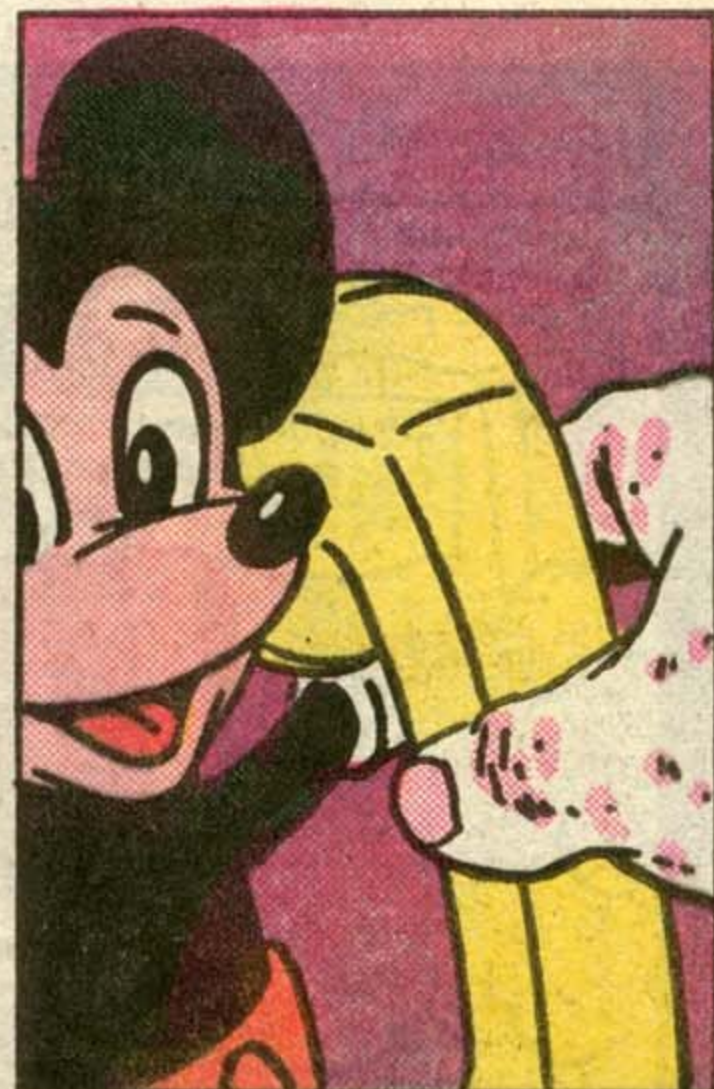
GORDON, JOHNNY. ONCE A MAN BECOMES A FATHER HE IS NEVER TRULY FREE.

LISTEN CLOSELY...

WAAAAHHH

FEEDING TIME.

MY TURN, HONEY...



...heading into my building's garage--
I don't recognize him--

--suddenly my stomach's
cold as death and I'm
twisting the wheel again--

--nickel-and-dime
domestic--

--getting me
out of the
apartment--

SCREECH

--Barbara--

--James--

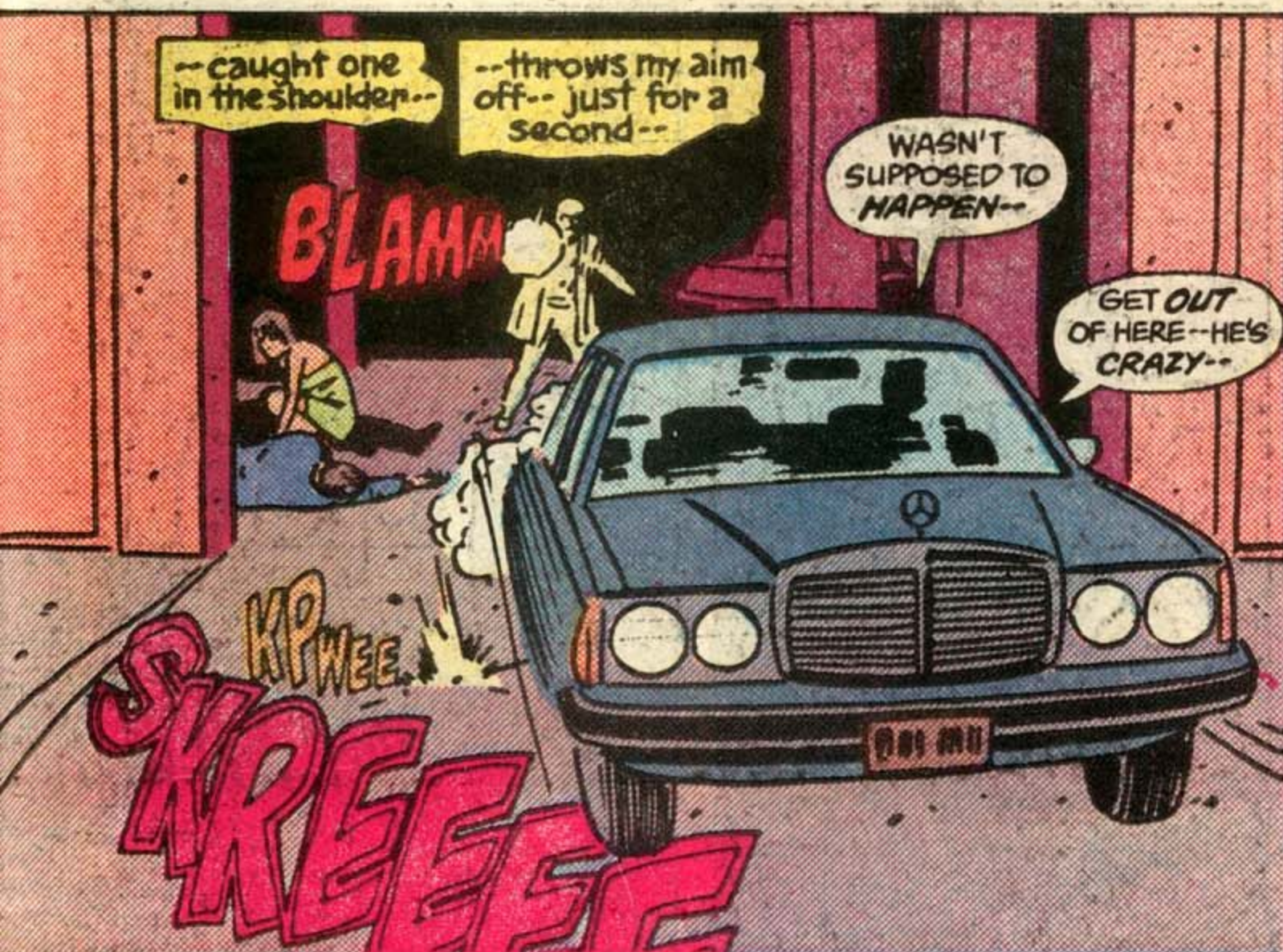
--no sign of the motorcycle--
plenty of places to hide in here--

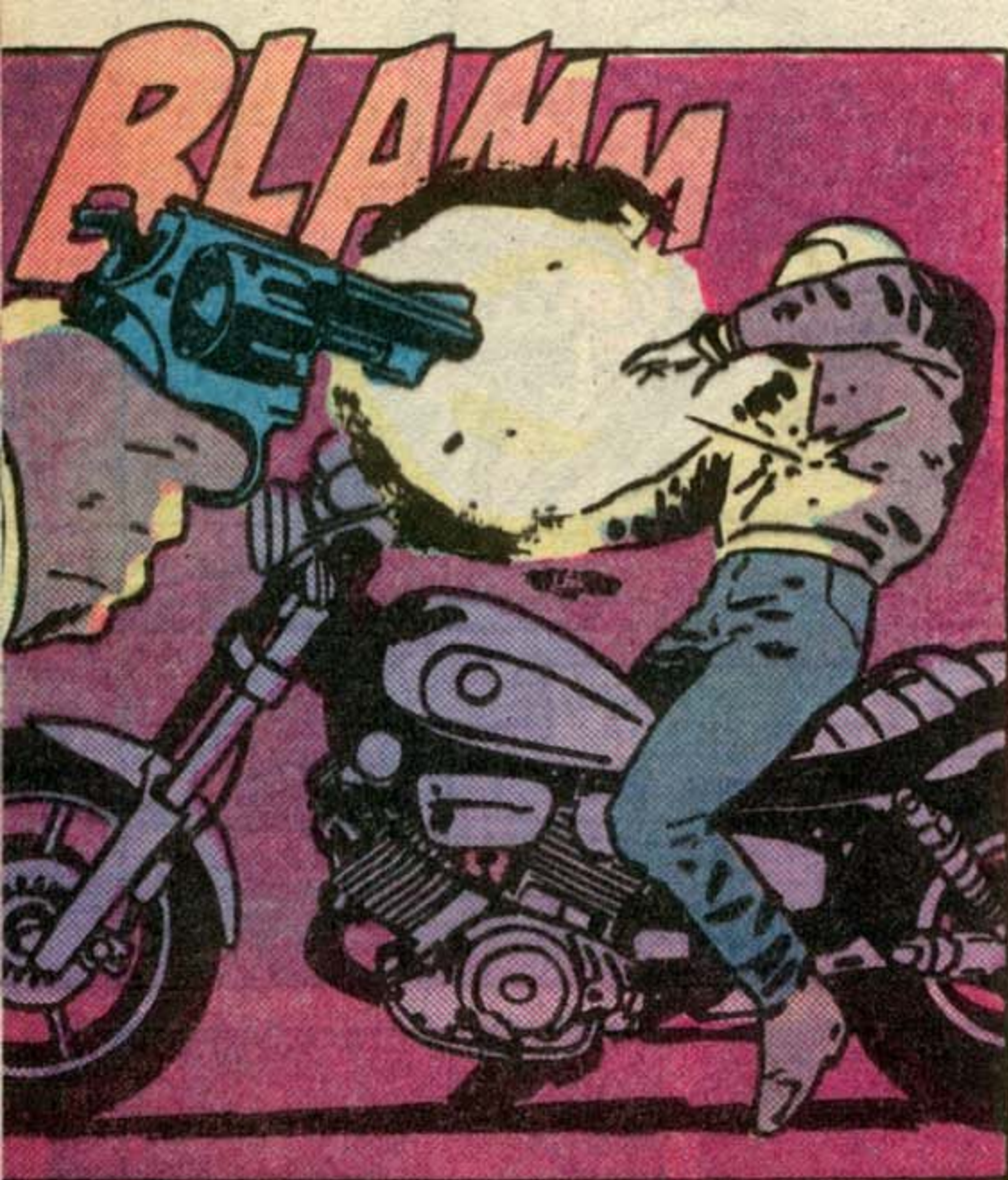
--come on--
come on--
I'm ready
for you--

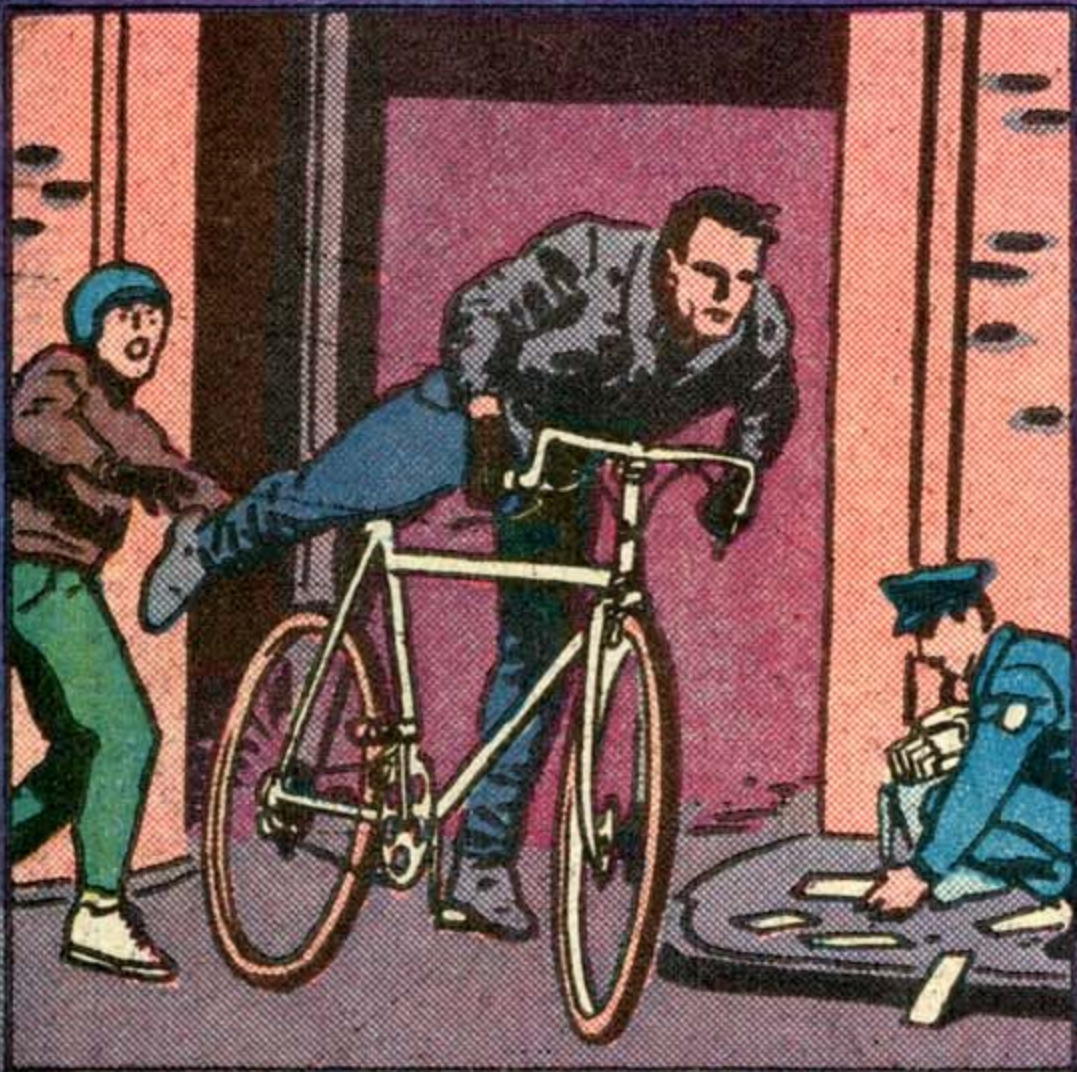
WWAAAUUUH

DROP THE GUN, LIEUTENANT. GO
TO THE OFFICE. WAIT FOR OUR CALL.

JIM--



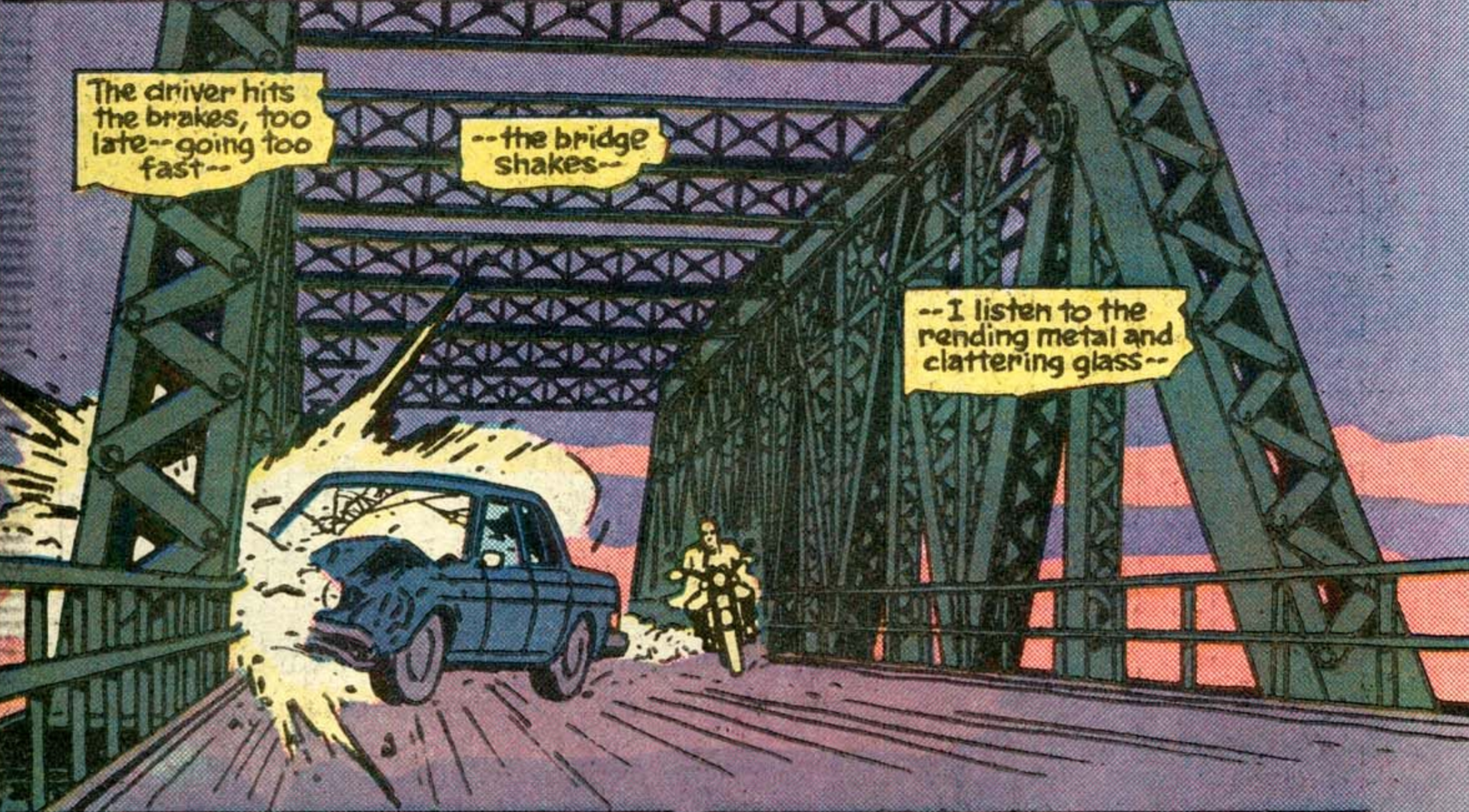




The driver hits the brakes, too late--going too fast--

--the bridge shakes--

--I listen to the rending metal and clattering glass--



--I listen--the radiator hisses, spits water on the street--

--I don't hear a human sound--



--I don't hear my baby cry--







Turns out Flass is smarter than anybody knew.

He took notes on every little talk he'd had with Commissioner Loeb. Dates, times-- it was all there.



Two weeks and five days in jail and he remembered where he kept the notes.

Loeb's holding up pretty well under the strain.

Judge Norton's on the case, so I don't think Dent has a chance of putting him behind bars--

--but word is Loeb's conferring with the mayor on the terms of his resignation.



They've already got Grogan primed to replace him, who's worse. Still, things aren't so bad, right now.

December 3

The Roman's been at war with his sister ever since he tried to get a hired knife slid between his nephew's ribs.

I had a few run-ins with his sister, back in Chicago, a few years ago. I don't envy the Roman.

They were all too busy to stand in the way of my promotion to Captain.



Sarah's in New York, doing well, I hear.

Barbara's not crazy about the marriage counselor, but we're making progress.

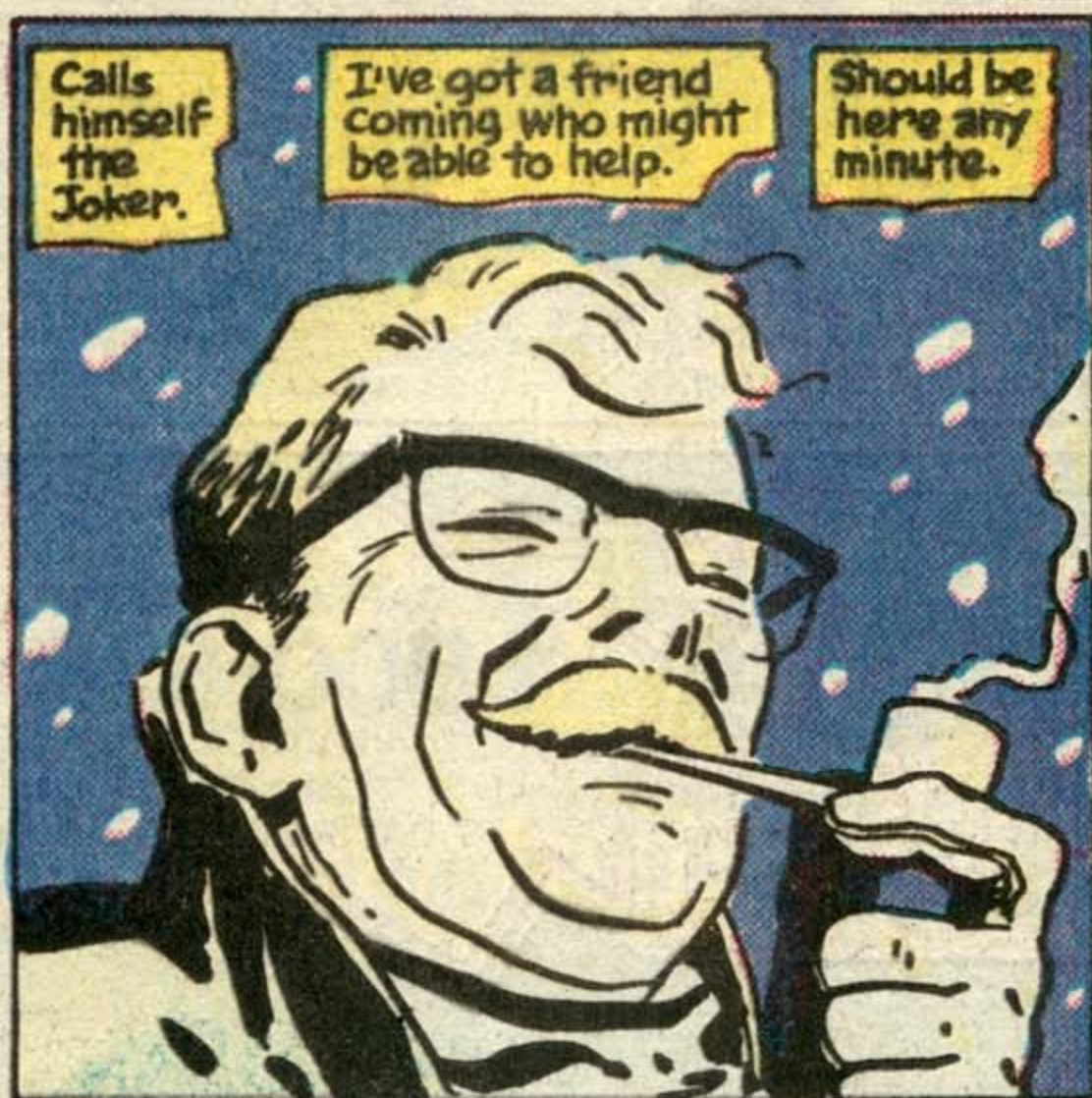
As for me-- well, there's a real panic on. Somebody's threatened to poison the Gotham reservoir.



Calls himself the Joker.

I've got a friend coming who might be able to help.

Should be here any minute.



END